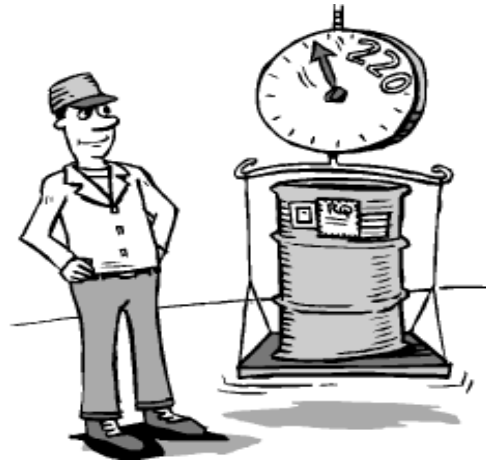




Hazardous Waste and
Toxics Reduction Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



What is a Small Quantity Generator?

Your Regulatory Status Under the Dangerous Waste Regulations

Hazardous Waste and Toxics
Reduction Program

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Special Help for Small Quantity Generators

Talk to your local health department to see if they can assist small quantity generators of dangerous waste. Many local health departments and solid waste programs offer brochures, workshops, on-site consultations or waste management services. If you don't know whom to call, Ecology's regional offices can refer you to the right place.

Northwest Regional Office - Bellevue
Hazardous Waste Specialists

425-649-7053

Southwest Regional Office - Lacey
Hazardous Waste Specialists

360-407-6300

Central Regional Office - Yakima
Hazardous Waste Specialists

509-457-7142

Eastern Regional Office - Spokane
Hazardous Waste Specialists

509-456-2926

Ecology has a number of publications that can answer your questions and help you manage your waste better. We may have a publication specifically for your type of business. Contact Ecology's Publication Distribution Center at (360) 407-7472 or look up our publications on the Internet at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/pubs.html>.

Ecology's website offers update on rule changes, enforcement actions and other information you may need. Reach us at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr/>.

To start receiving your **FREE** subscription to the *Shoptalk* newsletter, call the **Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program** at (360) 407-6719 or send an e-mail to cbou461@ecy.wa.gov. This quarterly publication offers the latest information on waste reduction and safe waste management.

If you have special accomodation needs or require this document in alternative format, call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360)407-6700 (Voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).

The *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, Chapter 173-303 WAC, use the term *small quantity generator* to describe individuals and businesses that generate and/or accumulate dangerous waste in small amounts. These generators are conditionally exempt from many state regulatory requirements.

This brochure offers an overview of the standards that apply to small quantity generators. It also lists resources that can offer help. Small quantity generators can get technical assistance through their local health departments, local solid waste programs and Ecology.

By following the advice offered by these programs, small quantity generators may find they can avoid generating dangerous waste altogether or they may find disposal options they were not aware of before.

How do I know if I generate dangerous waste?

Many wastes contain certain chemicals or have properties that make them dangerous to human health and the environment. The *Dangerous Waste Regulations* describe a process called “designation” that determines whether a waste is dangerous or not. Wastes are categorized based on the characteristics or criteria they exhibit.

For example, a waste could have the characteristic of being corrosive, meaning that it eats through metal and skin. This property makes the waste designate as hazardous. Another example is that a waste could contain a certain level of heavy metal - such as lead - that makes the waste designate because it meets the criteria for toxicity. Products such as

some batteries and cleaners used by businesses can also designate as dangerous wastes when discarded.

Ecology publishes more detailed information on how to designate a waste. The titles of these documents appear at the beginning of this brochure.

How much waste can I generate?

A small quantity generator can **generate** up to 220 pounds of dangerous waste, or up to 2.2 pounds of certain pesticides or poisons¹ each month or per batch. You may generate waste in many ways:

- ✓ when you take the waste product of a process and put it in a container for disposal,
- ✓ when you decide a chemical product is no longer usable,
- ✓ when you clean up a spilled chemical product, or
- ✓ when you clean equipment with a chemical-based cleaner.

How much waste can I keep on-site?

Small quantity generators can **accumulate** up to 2,200 pounds of dangerous waste, or 2.2 pounds of certain pesticides or poisons, at their site before sending the waste off-site for proper disposal or recycling.

Ecology recommends that generators follow the Best Management Practices listed in this brochure to ensure safe management of their dangerous waste.

¹ Wastes with a Quantity Exclusion Limit of 2.2 pounds are Discarded Chemical Products with a P designation, wastes with federal waste codes F020, F021, F022, F023, F026 and F027, and toxic Extremely Hazardous Waste.

How Does Ecology Regulate Small Quantity Generators?

In Washington, the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* spell out the rules that apply to dangerous waste generators. The rules identify generators as small, medium or large quantity generators depending upon the amount of waste they generate in each month or batch **and** the amount of waste they accumulate on-site. Generators must comply with more stringent requirements when they generate or accumulate larger amounts of dangerous waste.

Ecology provides pollution prevention and compliance assistance to all generators, but actually regulates medium and large quantity generators. Local health departments, local solid waste programs and sewage treatment works offer assistance too, and may regulate the activities of small quantity generators. Local governments sometimes team up with Ecology to provide assistance to small quantity generators.

Small quantity generators are exempt from most of the state and federal regulations if they stay within the **generation** and **accumulation** limits described above, and if they do the following:

- ✓ Determine if their waste is a dangerous waste (“designation”).
- ✓ Manage their waste in a way that does not pose a threat to human health or the environment.
- ✓ Treat or dispose of their waste in an on-site facility *or* ensure that the waste is delivered to a permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility, to a legitimate recycler, to a county moderate risk waste facility or into the sanitary sewer **if you have permission from the local sewer authority**.

Best Management Practices for Small Quantity Generators

The guidelines listed below suggest the best ways for small quantity generators to manage their waste to protect human health and the environment. Small quantity generators are exempt from most state regulations, but some local health departments have ordinances that cover the handling of small quantity generator waste. Be sure to check with your local health department for any additional requirements.

- ✓ Keep wastes in containers that are in good condition.
- ✓ Make sure that labels identify the contents of the container and list any major risks the waste poses to employees, emergency response personnel and the public.
- ✓ Avoid spills by keeping containers closed except when adding or removing waste.
- ✓ Maintain containers so they do not rupture or tip over when being opened, handled or stored.
- ✓ Use secondary containment for containers of liquid waste.
- ✓ Keep volumes of accumulated waste low by properly recycling and routinely disposing of waste.
- ✓ Inspect storage areas frequently.
- ✓ Investigate using alternative, less hazardous products.